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TAGS: PREL PGOV OSCE GR

SUBJECT: GREECE: NEW PERMREP DISCUSSES MACEDONIA, CYPRUS,  
OSCE WITH AMBASSADOR WOLFF

Classified By: Ambassador Alejandro Wolff for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

¶1. (C) SUMMARY. Newly arrived Greek Permrep Anastassis Mitsialis told Ambassador Wolff during a July 14 introductory call, that he thought Greece would be prepared to settle the name dispute with Macedonia with a geographical qualifier such as "North Macedonia", but that Greece would want a Security Council "recommendation" to UN member states to use the agreed name in their bilateral relations. He added that Greece would want the U.S. to set an example for other members by adopting the new name in its bilateral relations with Macedonia. Mitsialis said he thought the Cyprus talks were progressing well and believed that time limits imposed by the Security Council would be unhelpful. Mitsialis did not think it made sense for UN Special Advisor Downer to host a meeting between Greek Cypriot leader Christofias and Turkish Cypriot leader Talat on the margins of the UNGA Ministerial Week (September 23-30) unless there was a possibility that they could produce something tangible. Mitsialis said Greek Foreign Minister Dora Bakoyannis would like to address the Security Council as Chairwoman-in-Office of the OSCE during the Ministerial Week, which takes place during the September U.S. Council presidency. Ambassador Wolff was noncommittal about the possibility of an OSCE briefing. END SUMMARY.

¶2. (C) Incoming Greek Permrep Anastassis Mitsialis paid an introductory call on Ambassador Wolff on July 14. Mitsialis said Greece was considering new proposals to resolve the name dispute with Macedonia from the SYG's Personal Envoy, Matthew Nimetz. Nimetz had asked for written answers by both sides in August. Depending on whether there was some convergence of views, Mitsialis said, Nimetz might call another joint meeting on the margins of the UNGA Ministerial Week, or alternatively he might present the sides with a new proposal. Mitsialis said he did not know the exact content of Nimetz's most recent proposals, but believed Greece would accept a geographical qualifier such as "North Macedonia" as a solution to the name dispute. The issue of how to characterize the language and the adjective (i.e., "Macedonian") was not as important as the name, he said.

¶3. (C) The scope of the usage of the new name would also be important, he said, and Greece would want a recommendation from the Security Council to members states to use the agreed name in their bilateral relations with Macedonia. Mitsialis said that Greece would want the United States to set an example for other states by changing its usage to the agreed name in its bilateral relations.

¶4. (C) Ambassador Mitsialis said he thought the Cyprus talks were progressing well, but he expressed concern about efforts on the part of some "partners" to contain the talks by imposing "time limits". He also questioned the utility of holding a meeting between Greek Cypriot leader Christofias and Turkish Cypriot leader Talat on the margins of the Ministerial week, but added that he believed the Secretary-General would be cautious about planning a meeting, since a meeting without a tangible outcome could send the

wrong signal. Mitsialis did acknowledge that just the fact of holding the meeting could be a signal of progress. Overall, Mitsialis assessed that the Security Council and the Secretary-General had adopted a balanced approach to the ongoing negotiations.

15. (C) Mitsialis asked Ambassador Wolff whether the United States, as Security Council president during September, intended to schedule a briefing by Greek Foreign Minister Bakoyannis as OSCE Chairwoman-in-Office during UNGA Ministerial Week. Mitsialis noted that such briefings had been the practice in previous years and Bakoyannis was requesting to brief again. Ambassador Wolff recalled that Bakoyannis had briefed the Council as OSCE CiO in February, but he said he would look into whether another briefing could be possible. He told Mitsialis frankly that past OSCE briefings during Ministerial Week had not produced much of substance. Mitsialis said he believed the February briefing had been specific to the negotiations over continuation of the OSCE observer presence in Georgia, but that this one would cover a range of recent OSCE issues. He hoped that the U.S. would support this request.

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